Earlier all the applications for such grants were received from all over the country through the State Nodal Agencies in the Ministry. These applications were then Centrally processed and grants disbursed in the Ministry itself. This used to involve avoidable delays. Hence, with a view to enlarge the outreach of this scheme to each nook and corner of the country, accelerate the pace of disposal and to take the Government to door steps of the people, the whole procedure of receipt of application under the Scheme, its appraisal and calculation of grant eligibility as well as disbursement of funds has been completely decentralized from 2007-08. Under this new procedure any entrepreneur /applicant can file application with the neighborhood Bank branch/Financial Institutions (FIs). The Bank/FIs appraise the applications and then calculates the eligible grant amount as per the detailed guidelines given to them by the Ministry in this regard. Banks/FIs appraisal report and recommendation for the grant is transmitted to the Ministry through E-Portal which has been established for this purpose. After the recommendation is received from any Bank/FIs through the E-Portal Ministry sanctions the same and transfers the funds also through the same E-Portal.

Under the decentralized procedure, the applications are received directly by the Banks/FIs, hence the data for receipt of the applications for 2007-08 and 2008-09 is not maintained centrally by the Ministry. However, for the State of Karnataka, during the last three years *i.e.* 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09, out of 133 applications received under the scheme, 108 applications were approved for which an amount of Rs. 1773.805 lakhs were disbursed. The Ministry release the funds in the shape of grants-in-aid to the agencies/ entrepreneurs depending upon the availability of funds within the budget provision from year to year basis.

Public sector food processing projects

2465.SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number with details, of the public sector food processing projects under implementation and those likely to come up by December, 2010, with products and their capacities at optimum level;

(b) whether existing public sector projects are earning reasonable profit; and

(c) if not, the steps being aken to make them profitable?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries is not implementing any public sector food processing project at present. However, Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MFPI) extends financial assistance in the country in the form of grant-in-aid to implementing agencies/entrepreneurs @ 25% of the cost of Plant & Machinery and Technical Civil Works subject to a maximum of Rs. 50 lakhs in general areas and 33.33% subject to a maximum of Rs. 75 lakhs in Difficult areas under the Scheme of Technology Upgradation/Establishment/Modernization of Food Processing Industries.

Apart from the above, Ministry of Food Processing Industries is also implementing the following plan schemes: i) Scheme for Infrastructure Development with major components *i.e.* Mega Food

Park, Cold Chain, Modernization of Abattoirs and Value Added Centres, ii) Scheme for Quality Assurance, Codex Standards and R&D iii) Scheme for Human Resource Development, iv) Scheme for Strengthening of Institution and v) Scheme for Upgradation of Quality of Street Food.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Food processing units

†2466. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated requirement of food processing facilities in the country and the availability of these facilities in the States/Union Territories;

(b) the number of food processing units approved in the country during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) the details of amount allocated to the States/Union Territories during the said period, sector-wise;

(d) the details of schemes pending or under implementation in the country, State-wise;

(e) the details of units closed during the past few years; and

(f) the details of steps taken to make these units operational?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) Ministry of Food Processing Industries has not conducted any study in respect of estimated requirement of food processing facilities in the country and the availability of such facilities in the States/ Union Territories. However, the level of wastage of agricultural food items is estimated to be about Rs. 50,000 crores occurring at various stages of handling after harvesting due to fragmented farming, provisions in Agricultural Produce Marketing (Development & Regulation) Act, lack of cold chain facilities, transportation, proper storage and processing facilities etc. Vision Document 2015 finalized by the Ministry envisages trebling the size of the processed food sector by increasing the level of processing of perishables from 6%. to 20%, value addition from 20% to 35% and share in global food trade from 1.5% to 3% by 2015.

(b) to (f) The data on approval and closure of food processing units in the country is not centrally maintained by the Ministry. Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MFPI) extends financial assistance in the country in the form of grant-in-aid to implementing agencies/entrepreneurs @ 25% of the cost of Plant & Machinery and Technical Civil Works subject to a maximum of Rs. 50 lakhs in general areas and 33.33% subject to a maximum of Rs. 75 lakhs in Difficult areas under the Scheme of Technology Upgradation/Establishment/Modernization of food processing industries in the meat, fish fruits, vegetables, grain milling, dairy products and beverages. Since financial

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.